

Before The S.F. Commonwealth Club**Colby Speaks Out On The CIA****-- By Ann Fréchette**

The Central Intelligence Agency can be accountable for its actions to the American public, CIA Director William Colby said Wednesday, but it must "preserve the fragile nature" of some intelligence secrets.

"Even while the agency is undergoing one of the broadest, most intense investigations in its history, we feel the American public is concerned and confused about our role and that it deserves a reply now," Colby said.

Speaking before an estimated 900 persons at the Commonwealth Club Luncheon held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, Colby argued that the CIA's need for "some cloak of secrecy" was no more in conflict with the "ideals of the Republic" than the military or diplomatic services.

Colby said the mass of information the agency collects "from both open and closed societies" is used

to help United States officials to develop "foreign policies on fact, not emotion."

"We provide U.S. leaders with information which will ensure that their judgment will be independent and objective," Colby said.

Listing a mélange of Congressional committees the CIA reports to on a regular basis, Colby said the CIA not only responds to the questions asked "but advises the committee members to ask questions on matters they don't even know about."

Referring to the number of investigations currently underway on the federal level into the CIA's operations, Colby said the outcome of the Congressional hearings and Rockefeller Commission investigation should center on strengthening the agency by "clarifying the laws and guidelines under which the CIA should live."

"The processes for supervision, control and decision-making for

the intelligence agency should be clarified and understood so that the CIA can be viewed as it should be . . . being fully compatible with a constitutional society," Colby said.

At the same time, Colby urged the "government and American public to preserve the intelligence secrets necessary to ensure peace in a constantly changing world."

Following his speech to the club, Colby fielded several questions from the audience.

Colby denied a recent report in a national magazine that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger does not read CIA intelligence reports, saying "Kissinger is an assiduous user of CIA information, but I can't say he always agrees with what he reads."

On the problems of keeping former CIA employees from revealing intelligence secrets, Colby said the CIA had attempted to "stop that kind of subversion among its employees" but is helpless in cases where the employee leaves the country.